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REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are pending. Claims 1-6 are rejected. Claims 1 is amended.

Support for the amendment can be found throughout the application, for instance at page 7

(third full paragraph) of the specification which discloses the preparation of AIF3 as catalyst

and in the claims as originally filed. No new matter is added. Claims 1-6 are submitted for

further consideration at this time. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and

withdrawal of all rejections.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by or, in

the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Miller et al. (U.S. Patent

No. 2,598,411). It is alleged that Miller et al. teaches or suggests each and every element

of the claimed invention.

Applicants respectfully disagree. The present invention in a preferred

embodiment is concerned with a process in gaseous phase to obtain CFC 113a starting

from CFC 113, wherein CFC 113, optionally diluted with a gas inert under the reaction

conditions, is let flow on a catalyst consisting of aluminum fluoride in a fixed or fluidized

bed. See claim 1.

Applicants respectfully submit that no such invention is taught or suggested in

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the prior art. Applicants note that Miller et al. is directed to a process for preparing

saturated perhalocarbons and more particularly to a process for preparing saturated

perhalocarbons by intramolecular rearrangement. In clear contrast to the claimed

invention, Miller et al. at col. 3 (lines 26-29) teaches that the catalyst employed for such

process may be aluminum chloride, aluminum bromide or mixtures thereof, which may

incorporate some other metal halides. However, as noted above, the claimed invention

requires a catalyst consisting of aluminum fluoride in a fixed or fluidized bed, and thus

excludes the presence of catalytic materials other than aluminum fluoride. Miller et al. of

course contains no teaching or suggestion concerning the exclusion of all other catalytic

materials, in particular the preferred catalyst of AlCl₃, so as to form a catalyst consisting of

aluminum fluoride, as required by the claimed invention. Applicants note that although

Miller et al. might disclose aluminum fluoride as an optional carrier for the specifically listed

catalysts, the reference contains absolutely no teaching or suggestion with respect to the

use of aluminum fluoride in a catalyst, to the exclusion of other catalytic materials, in order

to obtain a substantially quantitative conversion of CFC 113 to CFC 113a, as in the claimed

invention. Therefore, in that the cited reference fail to teach or suggest the claimed

invention, Applicants urge withdrawal of all rejections.

In view of the amendments and remarks above, Applicants submit that this

application is in condition for allowance and request favorable action thereon.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, Applicants hereby

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petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for this extension may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 01-2300. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referencing Attorney Docket No. 108910-00052.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: Marked-Up Copy of Claim Amendments

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MARKED-UP COPY OF CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 (Amended). A process in gaseous phase to obtain CFC 113a starting from CFC 113, wherein CFC 113, optionally diluted with a gas inert under the reaction conditions, is let flow on a catalyst [formed by] consisting of aluminum fluoride in a fixed or fluidized bed.

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